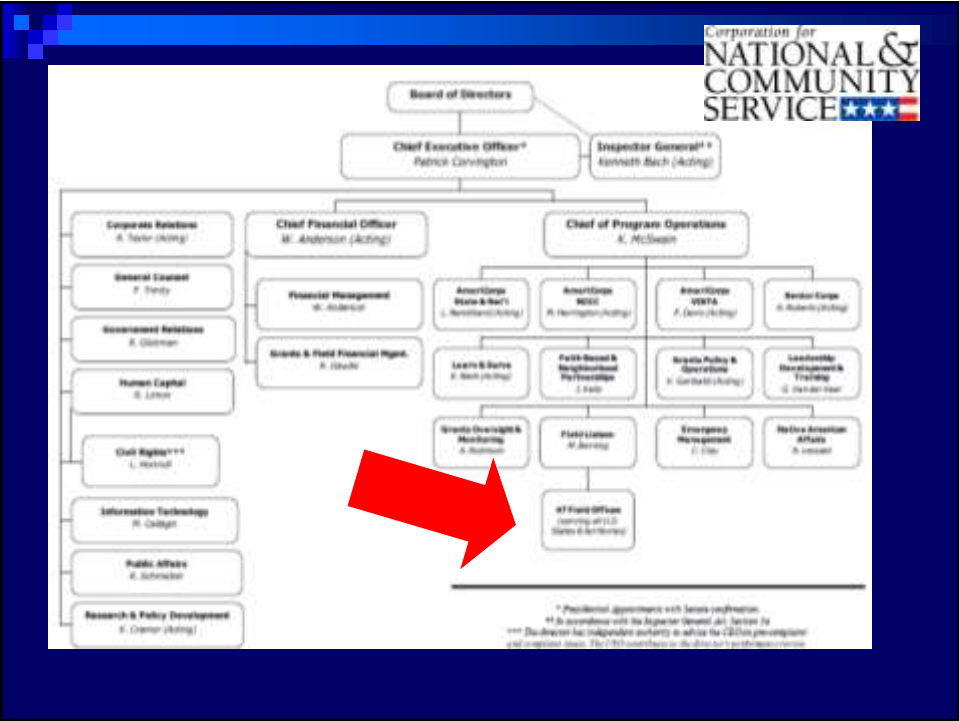


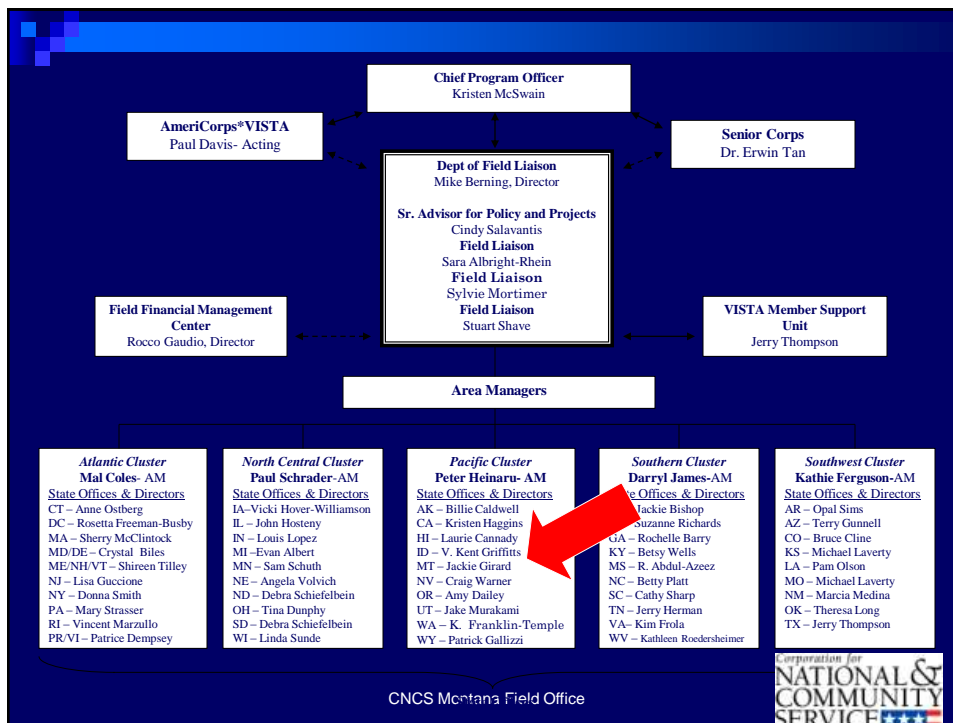
AmeriCorps VISTA & Senior Corps in Montana



Reaching our goals... The sky is the limit!







Roles of CNCS Staff – Montana Field Office

■ Responsibilities include:

- Administering Senior Corps & AmeriCorps* VISTA
- Helping to interpret policy & answer grantee's day-to-day questions
- Other special assignments
- Conducting compliance monitoring with grantees
- The CNCS Field Office is the face of national service in the state.
- Using service as a strategy to meet local needs.
- Providing support and technical assistance to State Office of Community Service & Commission.

AmeriCorps*VISTA

**Fight Poverty
with PASSION**

Corporation for National and Community Service



VISTA - The Basics:

- vis-ta - Pronunciation: \vis-ta\
(Volunteers In Service To America)
- The only AmeriCorps program focused exclusively on fighting poverty.
- 12-month, full-time commitment for Members. Not a 9-to-5 job.



VISTA Mission and Objectives

Mission: to increase capacity of low-income people to improve the conditions of their own lives.

Three specific objectives of the program:

- To strengthen local agencies and organizations to carry out the purpose of the program
- To encourage volunteer service at the local level
- To generate the commitment of private sector resources



Key Principles of VISTA:

- Anti-Poverty Focus
- Community Empowerment
- Capacity Building
- Sustainable Solutions



During the last year over **150** VISTAS Members served over **312,000** hours throughout the State of Montana including Indian Reservations.



Each member serves at least full-time or more, an average of **2,080** hours per year.



How do we do so much with so little?



- Currently there are **5** **VISTA Projects** in Montana.
- Members are placed in over **100 different** **VISTA Sites** (community organizations and government agencies) throughout Montana.
- The VISTA sites are continually changing depending on community needs.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Projects in Montana

Billings Metro VISTA Project (MVP)

Administered by the City of Billings, Billings, Montana.



VISTA members serve to reduce the risk of homelessness and create the tools people in poverty need to build sustainable futures.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Projects in Montana

Communities In Action (CIA)

Administered by the Richland County Health Department in Sidney, Montana, covering 17 Eastern Montana counties.

The project incorporates a multi-faceted approach to creating healthy communities in Eastern Montana. CIA is building an infrastructure in response to the modern day needs of frontier life through identifying, developing, implementing, sustaining, and evaluating healthy approaches to community development.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Projects

Montana Campus Compact (MTCC)

Administered by the Montana Campus Compact, U of M, Missoula, Montana with a statewide service area.

MTCC VISTA members serve to connect the resources of higher education with community needs in child literacy, hunger, housing and health. Working closely with faculty members, students and community members, MTCC VISTAs help communities develop long-term solutions to Montana's poverty problems.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Projects

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA)

Administered by Montana Legal Services Association, Helena, Montana, with a statewide service area.

Projects include expanding the resources available to domestic abuse victims, creating sustainable asset development strategies, and developing legal resources to assist MLSA in providing free civil legal assistance for low-income Montanans.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Projects

Prevention Resource Center (PRC)

Administered by the PRC, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Helena, Montana, with a statewide service area.

Through a very successful and innovative approach, this project is working to reduce youth substance use and violence, school drop out rates, child abuse and teen pregnancy across the state.



Examples of VISTA Impact:

Downtown Billings Alliance and the City of Billings Community Development, Billings, Montana

VISTA Member Julia Guarino



- Julia implemented the Spare Change for Real Change. The program supports those that are homeless or at-risk of being homeless.
- Julia developed a strategic plan to expand the program. She was able to use sponsorships and a new fundraising event to increase the funds raised by this project from the \$700 raised in three years to over **\$8,000**, as well as over **\$10,000** in in-kind donations. This has enabled community organizations to better serve the needs of clients and increased awareness about the Spare Change for Real Change program.



Examples of VISTA Impact

YWCA of Missoula, Missoula, MT

VISTA Member Alice Jones

- Alice's project focused on developing the YWCA of Missoula's Racial Justice Program and to implement the YWCA of Missoula's Women's Economic Advancement Program. Alice was a project coordinator for major renovations of the organization's shelter for survivors of domestic violence. The YWCA received a **\$26,000** grant from the Missoula Human Resources Council to replace the roof, replace the carpeting and install a new shower and toilet in one of the bathrooms. By being the coordinator for this project, Alice was able to ensure YWCA was building its capacity to serve its clients by creating a safe and welcoming place for those Montanans in need.



Examples of VISTA Impact:

Montana Credit Unions for Community Development (MCUCD), Helena, MT

VISTA Member Abigail Wolf

- Abigail is working to expand and sustain the capacity of MCUCD's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which serves 16 communities in order to provide access to the Earned Income Tax Credit by providing free tax services to those with incomes under \$49,000. Abby recruited and trained VITA volunteer tax preparers across the state, as well as provided support to VITA programs in Kalispell, Billings, Missoula and Butte.
- The MCUCD's VITA program has completed **over 2,400** tax returns and led to **\$2.4 million** returned to the community. By adding six new sites and through the assistance of over 50 volunteers, MCUCD was able to assist more people and will help build the sustainability of the program.



Examples of VISTA Impact:

Bridge to Benefits Program, Rural Dynamics, Inc., Great Falls, Montana

- VISTA Members worked to market and launch the Bridge to Benefits Program in the summer of 2008, the Bridge to Benefits initiative is a valuable outreach effort that helps improve the economic situations of Montana children and their families while helping to stabilize the state's economy and workforce.
- Since its inception nearly **900 families** and over **2,700 children** have utilized the Bridge to Benefits website to determine their eligibility for work support benefit programs. Nearly **93%** of families screened were eligible for at least one program amounting to over **3,380** adults and children eligible for work support benefits.



Accomplishments over the past year:

- Helped in generating over **\$2,049,361** for local organizations and government agencies.
- Completed **406** Community Assessments
- Conducted **551** Evaluations
- Developed and Supported **231** Community groups to lead the effort.
- Assisted Community groups in creating **270** Strategic Plans.



- Recruited and trained over **15,495** Community Volunteers to support and sustain the work.
- These volunteers contributed **92,621** to local organizations and government agencies.
- **4,249** of the volunteers are Baby Boomers



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For many VISTAs this is the first time coming to Montana...and they make the most of it!



Seniors Helping Seniors



b3ta.hnl.design.nl

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Senior Companions make independence a reality.

By sharing their time, experience, and compassion they help seniors and other adults with mobility and self-care limitations to continue to live as independently as possible.

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- There are **3** Senior Companion Programs in Montana with **205** Senior Companions serving **192,077** hours in **31** counties and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.
- Each Companion serves an average of **936** hours per year or **78** hours per month.

CNCS Montana Field Office



During the last year, Senior Companions helped **987** at-risk individuals. Of those, **759 or 77%** remained independent and in their own home.



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**The Montana State Median Annual
Nursing Home Care Costs
in 2010:**

\$67,832 – Private*
\$62,634 – Semi Private*

If those 759 individuals were not able to live
at home with the help of a Senior
Companion –

$759 \times \$62,634 = \$47,539,206.00$

*According to Genworth Financial – State comparison Report www.genworth.com

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Foster Grandparent Program



CNCS Montana Field Office



Seniors Helping Children



b3ta.hnldesign.nl

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Foster Grandparents give the kind of comfort and love that set a child on the path toward a successful future.



They are a role model, a mentor, and a friend to children in Head Start, schools, day cares, and other youth facilities.

- There are **5** Foster Grandparent Programs in Montana with **303** Foster Grandparents serving **280,540** hours in **23** counties, as well as the **Fort Belknap, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and Flathead Indian Reservations**.
- Each Foster Grandparent serves an average of **925** hours per year or **77** hours per month.

CNCS Montana Field Office



Over the course of the last year, these Foster Grandparents mentored and tutored:

- **3,119** school-age students that had been identified as at-risk and below their appropriate level of reading and/or math skills.
- **786** children in Head Start or non-profit daycares that were tested at below their appropriate level of pre-literacy and/or social skills.

CNCS Montana Field Office



By the end of the year with the extra help of their Foster Grandparent,

- **2,651 or 85%** of those school-age children were at their appropriate level of reading and/or math skills.
- **572 or 73%** of those Head Start or pre-elementary children were at their appropriate level of pre-literacy and/or social skills.

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Foster Grandparents such as Grandma Betty here are up for any approach, no matter how creative they need to be!

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RSVP



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Seniors gone wild!



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RSVP volunteers share their lifetime of experience by tackling critical needs in our communities.



RSVP is America's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older.



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- There are **15** RSVP Programs in Montana with **6,105** volunteers serving **1,057,438** hours in **34** counties, as well as the **Fort Belknap, Northern Cheyenne, and Flathead Indian Reservations**.
- Each RSVP Volunteer serves an average of **173** hours per year or **14** hours per month.

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Examples of RSVP impact by focus area



Education:



- Across the State last year volunteers mentored, tutored, and provided other support activities for **35,154** children in schools, after-school programs, and other youth organizations .
- Area VI RSVP, which serves Lake, Mineral and Ravalli Counties and the Flathead Indian Reservation received a grant to develop a Youth Safety Program. So far **301** identification kits have been issued and **200** families have received child safety education.



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Healthy Futures



- Volunteers provided **649,605** congregate and home-delivered meals to **10,199** seniors. Of these at-risk seniors, **7,572 or 74%** remained independent in their own homes.
- Volunteers distributed **346,118** lbs. of food to low-income and seniors through Commodity programs.
- In Helena, the Tri-County RSVP has recruited, trained, and placed **6** volunteers with Compeer to mentor individuals with mental illness. At the end of the first year, all 6 mentees showed a dramatic decrease in crisis services directly correlated to the reduction in social isolation.



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And of course they've gotta have some fun!!!!

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Disaster Preparedness:

- 234 volunteers were trained and are training other community volunteers in Great Falls and Butte to participate in Neighborhood Watch/Meth Watch houses. Of the many impacts shown by law enforcement officials, a tip from one volunteer resulted in a drug bust and over \$200,000 in illegal drugs.
- Richland/McCone and Miles City RSVP have 180 volunteers trained in CERT and Mapping Your Neighborhood, ready to assist their communities in the event of a disaster.
- As part of their on-going training, volunteers helped with mass flu immunization clinics. In Missoula alone, 20,000 were immunized.

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Clean Energy

In Great Falls, RSVP volunteers collect and transport cardboard for recycling. In the last year, the amount of waste entering the landfill was reduced by **167,013 lbs.** as a result of their efforts.



RSVP volunteers Carol & Betty Risinger in Sidney helped with the annual E-Waste Event which resulted in **3,447 lbs of lead, .85 lbs of Mercury, and 6,719 lbs of Plastic** that did not go into the landfill -

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Opportunity

- 8 volunteers in Billings worked with the Billings Metro VISTA Project and the City of Billings to develop a Workplace Mentor Guide which will be used to support homeless individuals as they gain employment.
- RSVP volunteers in Fergus and Musselshell Counties assisted and prepared 264 Federal and 188 State Income Tax returns which resulted in refunds of \$129,452 for seniors and low-income individuals.

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Veterans

- One volunteer serving in Glendive serves with the Montana Veteran's Memorial, keeping the grounds clean. Several others in Glendive provide transportation for veterans needing to get to medical appointments outside of town, or for others that don't drive and have a spouse in the State Veteran's Nursing Home.
- In Baker RSVP volunteers make hundreds of quilts, pillow cases and lap robes each year for the VA Hospitals in Miles City and Helena, and VA Nursing Homes in Glendive and Columbia Falls.

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National Service joins together for STATEWIDE projects

- MLK Day of Service
- Global Youth Service Days
- Summer Initiative
- 911 Day of Remembrance, Day of Service
- MT Gov. & First Lady's Math & Reading
- Winter Ready
- Fire Ready
- Operation Service

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Summer Initiative – School supply drives and book collections for children in our communities



Operation Service – Supply drive, card writing, and banner signing for our troops overseas.

Questions???



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Thank you for the opportunity to
share our information!



- From the whole team at the
CNCS Montana Field Office
Jackie & Amy

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